

Sandralyn Bailey

06-55

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**From:** Mike Martinet [mmrtnt@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 02, 2007 8:38 PM  
**To:** KJMWEB  
**Cc:** dtaylor@tateweb; Jonathan Adelstein; KJMWEB; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell  
**Subject:** FCC Says Rural Telcos Have To Play Nice With VoIP

FCC stands up for consumers! Yay!

"...must promote competition... and create a level playing field"

<http://www.techdirt.com/articles/20070302/073711.shtml>

FILED/ACCEPTED

MAR 13 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

Get the right information for your business. Let **Techdirt** and the **Techdirt Insight Community** help you make **better decisions.**

TECHDIRT.COM TECHDIRT WIRELESS CORPORATE INTELLIGENCE

PREFERE



a free service of ~~techdirt~~ corporate intelligence

ABOUT US SUBMIT A STORY POLLS SEND FEEDBACK ADVERTISE

Search Techdirt

<< Reuters The Latest To Want Its Own MySpace | Latest Big Worm Exploits Flaws In Anti-Virus Software >

UP TO DATE



Contributed  
by Carlo

Friday, March  
2nd, 2007 @  
3:18PM

Permalink to  
this story.

Digg this  
Sphere It

## FCC Says Rural Telcos Have To Play Nice With VoIP

from the *right-for-once* dept

While much of the debate about net neutrality has focused on big telcos like AT&T and Verizon (in no small part because **their execs** have been the most vocal about how service and content providers should have to pay them), one of the few areas where net neutrality and service-blocking has been an actual problem has been with smaller telcos and VoIP services. **Fingers have been pointed** at the big carriers, but it was a small rural carrier **that was fined** for blocking Vonage, while small wireless ISP Clearwire also **tried to block it**. While it's not directly about net neutrality, in a related issue, Time Warner Cable had complained to the FCC that some rural carriers in South Carolina and Nebraska -- which generally have a monopoly on local landline service -- had refused to connect calls from its VoIP subscribers, making it rather difficult for the company to offer a competitive service in the areas. The local telcos' argument was that the FCC hasn't treated VoIP like a telecom service, so they weren't required to treat it like one and connect the calls, which were being routed through wholesale providers like Verizon, and local regulators had backed them up. But despite the FCC's general treatment of VoIP **as an ugly duckling**, it ruled this week that the rural telcos **must connect the calls** and allow VoIP providers access to local phone numbers, so they can offer them to their subscribers. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, in a **statement about the ruling** (PDF alert), says that the Commission "must promote competition... and create a level playing field" -- that's really little more than double-speak, but in this instance, it made the right call.

1 Comment | Leave a Comment..



Other managed hosting providers  
will let server problems and  
downtime fall on your system.

## Techdirt Intelligence

Get your own  
for your com  
with all the ne  
and analysis y  
Techdirt's staf  
analysts.

Let us find, filt  
and analyze th

More

**AMD LIVE! PC** - Play The Screaming Slugs Game, Get  
Info on New TouchScreen PCs Today! [www.amd.com/flushedaway](http://www.amd.com/flushedaway)

Ads by Google

Reader Comments

(Flattened / Threaded)

1. by **Nick D** on Mar 2nd, 2007 @ 3:51pm

*Not totally related, but there is a guy in rural Indiana who became a DIY internet and VOIP service provider to a couple hundred (or thousand?) customers with hacked WRT54Gs and hubs. His operation is threatened by monopolistic regulation. <http://www.itconversations.com/shows/detail1626.html>*

(reply to this comment) (link to this comment)

#### Add Your Comment

Name

Email

URL

Subject

Comment

Options

☒ Plain Text ☐ HTML

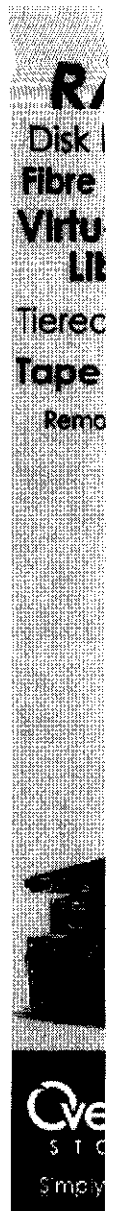
☐ Save me a cookie

- **Plain Text:** A CRLF will be replaced by break <br> tag, all other allowable HTML is intact
- **HTML:** No formatting of any kind is done without explicitly being written in
- **Allowed HTML Tags:** <b> <i> <p> <a> <em> <br> <strong> <blockquote> <hr> <tt>

<< **Reuters The Latest To Want Its Own MySpace** | **Latest Big Worm Exploits Flaws In Anti-Virus Software** >

[ABOUT US](#) [SUBMIT A STORY](#) [POLLS](#) [SEND FEEDBACK](#) [ADVERTISE](#)

Search Techdirt



Ads by Google

**Compare V**  
We compai  
the leading  
(VoIP) prov  
www.Consumer

**Internet P**  
**Comparisc**  
Compare P  
Features of  
Phone Sen  
www.VoIPPro

**Secure Ho**  
**PBX**  
PBX busine  
solution. Si  
and Save!  
www.gphone.c

**Voip Interr**  
Business P  
\$19.99 Fre  
shows cost  
www.getpacke

**Secret Sat**  
**PC**  
Shocking d  
don't Want  
www.secretsat

by **to**

- Feds Slow  
Records o
- China Plan  
Satellite

**Dunn's Reall**  
HP (9) - 2:16F

**Syndicating**  
**Terrestrial P**  
A Little, For )

May 1 - 7, 201

March 20 - 20  
3:17AM

Subscribe  
Techdirt  
Email

☒ Subscribe  
☐ Unsubscribe